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**TITLE:** Social Epidemiology and the Implications for Community HIV Prevention

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**OBJECTIVES:** The AIDS/HIV epidemic continues to affect segments of the population disproportionately. African Americans, Hispanics, and women living in New Jersey's urban centers are effected more so than other populations. The Supplemental HIV/AIDS Surveillance (SHAS) Project, developed by the CDC was initiated in New Jersey in 1993. This presentation will provide the attendee with an overview of the use of information collected by a detailed epidemiologic questionnaire to provide better insight to the health behavior and risks of the population who have HIV.

**METHODS:** The questionnaire is designed to better describe the epidemic in terms of social/economic status, drug use history, sexual practices, reproductive history in women, health care and their use of medical therapies. The project is based in a medical center within a multiracial urban city.

**REULTS:** More than 1000 interviews have been completed, 37% are female, 51% Black, and 39% Hispanic. Over 70% of the Hispanic population is Puerto Rican. Bivariate analysi indicated drug use and associated behaviors are significant problems in this community. Data also show that there are significant differences between men and women and their life experiences. Analyses of the data indicate that although the study uses a onvenience sample there are similarities among respondents, to persons with HIV from the State. It is likely the convenience sample may typify populations whom HIV effects and these results may provide insight to other urban HIV at-risk populations.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Implications of social epidemiology and behavioral surveillance to enhance community prevention planning efforts will be addressed.

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